

reforms, in matters of education and civilization, which were at that time greatly needed in the colony. He died at Quebec on the 10th of October, 1725, much regretted by all those who knew the sterling qualities of his character, and by the people of the colony who had felt the benefit of his wise administration as a soldier. He had been distinguished for bravery at the siege of Valenciennes, and during his service in Canada, as an administrator, he was more than usually successful, either as regards his measures of peace or war.

Ross, Hon. Geo. William, LL.B., M.P.P., etc.—The career of this gentleman is an excellent example of what the New World can do for a man who sets before himself a high ideal of life, with the ambition to overcome the accidents of birth, and the steadfast purpose to rise to a useful and exalted position among his fellows, without the adventitious aids which belong to an artificial society and an age of privilege. In Mr. Ross's case a laudable ambition has not been thwarted by circumstances which in the Old World so often prove a bar to personal advancement, whatever may be the merit of him who strives to overcome them. With all the freedom of our social and national life in Canada, it is of course not often given to one to rise from humble birth and the limited resources of a rural school training to high political office and the Ministership of Education—a position which Mr. Ross succeeded in attaining, greatly to his credit, before he had reached his forty-third year. Only unusual gifts and their devotion to high purposes and worthy ends could win such signal fortune as Mr. Ross has achieved far in advance of those who began life's race with him. Mr. Ross, who is of Scotch parentage, was born near Nairn, in the County of Middlesex, Ontario, on the 18th of Sept., 1841. As we have hinted, he is the architect of his own fortunes. The possessor of a good physical frame, and a strong and active intellectual organization, which he assiduously cultivates, Mr. Ross has successfully fought his way upwards with a determination and persistence characteristic of his Highland origin. As a boy he was fortunate to receive the sound but eminently practical education to be had in the older settled districts of the Province a generation ago. Building upon this, by his own unaided efforts, he succeeded in 1857 in obtaining a third-class county certificate, and for many years devoted himself to teaching. In 1859 he obtained a second-class, and in 1867 a

first-class, County Board certificate. Two years later, he took a course at the Normal School, Toronto, and in 1871 secured a first class Provincial certificate. In the latter year he was appointed Inspector of Public Schools for the County of Lambton, and subsequently acted in a similar capacity for the Towns of Petrolea and Strathroy. While Inspector for East Lambton, Mr. Ross was in 1875 made the recipient of a handsome gold watch and chain, with a complimentary address from the teachers of the district, in acknowledgment of his zeal in educational work and his able and unwearied service in the profession. He was also presented with a flattering address by the County Council. "During those years," says a writer in the *Canada School Journal*, "when the establishment of additional Normal Schools was agitated in this province, and rival cities were clamouring for location of the proposed new schools within their limits, Mr. Ross took a leading part in the movement set on foot for the creation of County Model Schools, when it was found that the Government of the day hesitated to incur the outlay for additional Normal Schools. He devoted much time and attention to perfecting the new scheme of County Model Schools, and after their establishment, prepared the syllabus of lectures, and was for a time appointed inspector of Model Schools. The excellent results that have followed are a sufficient indication of the wisdom of his counsels, and of the energy and skill with which the scheme was put into practical operation. From 1876 to 1880 he was a member of the Central Committee, and was there a faithful advocate of the teachers' interests. He contended for the use of only one text-book on the same subject in the public schools, and was in favour of confining the Normal Schools to strictly professional work, leaving the academic or non-professional part of the students' training to the High Schools and Institutes." For some years Mr. Ross was engaged in journalistic work. At one time he owned the *Strathroy Age* and at another was part proprietor of the *Huron Expositor*. His great mental resources and intimate knowledge of public questions well fit him to shine in the field of journalism. In educational journalism he also made his mark, having conducted, with Mr. McColl, of Strathroy, the *Ontario Teacher*, a publication which was spiritedly edited and for a time of great service to the teaching profession. Like many of our public men, Mr. Ross has also been drawn to law, and though he has never